TRENDS

A 3275-2

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 6, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 1 totaled an estimated 19.2 billion ton-miles, 12.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, and the highest week of the year to date, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 35 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 628.3 billion ton-miles, 15.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 1 totaled 425,598, the highest individual week since the week ended November 21, 1981. The week's loadings were up 8.3 percent from last year and 1.5 percent over the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 12.9 percent in the East, 7.9 percent in the South and 5.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 10 of the 21 commodity groups increased. Coal loadings totaled 134,033 cars, up 22.2 percent from the comparable week of 1983. The continuation of heavy coal loadings is attributed to stockpiling in anticipation of a possible coal miners' strike this Fall. Ten of the 21 commodity groups showed increases over the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 25 totaled 53,073 cars, up 10.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 90,001 trailers and/or containers, 7.1 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 34 weeks of the year was 1,718,295 cars, 15.9 percent higher than last year, and 2,966,494 trailers and/or containers, up 15.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/1/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Sept. 1, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,264	I	2,457	7.7	I	4,330	12.6
Other farm products	2,633	D	244	8.5	I	287	10.9
Metallic ores	18,954	I	4,425	30.5	D	1,904	10.0
Coal	134,033	I	24,368	22.2	D	351	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,868	I	2,100	19.5	D	783	6.1
Nonmetallic minerals	13,543	D	936	6.5	I	913	6.7
Grain mill products	10,310	D	1,677	14.0	D	13	0.1
Food and kindred products	11,139	D	1,182	9.6	I	282	2.5
Primary forest products	13,417	D	755	5.3	D	329	2.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,623	I	154	2.1	D	50	0.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,858	D	905	5.7	I	307	2.1
Chemicals and allied products	25,750	I	563	2.2	I	822	3.2
Petroleum products	4,748	D	60	1.2	D	138	2.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,385	D	298	2.6	D	90	0.8
Coke	4,747	D	919	16.2	D	126	2.7
Metals and products	9,098	I	97	1.1	I	1,119	12.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,135	I	1,786	10.3	I	785	4.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,933	I	747	9.1	D	17	0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,047	D	2,060	20.4	I	295	3.7
All other carloads	59,969	I	5,268	9.6	I	884	1.5
LCL traffic	144	D	181	55.7	D	34	23.6
Total Cars Loaded	425,598	I	32,748	8.3	I	6,189	1.5
Corresponding week of 1983	392,850						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (35 weeks)	13,864,789	12,454,989	I 11.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
34 weeks ended August 25	609.0	527.4	I 15.5
Week ended September 1	19.2	17.1	I 12.3
35 weeks cumulative	628.3	544.6	I 15.4

AARt-090684